

Waverly Community Schools
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
May 4, 2021 - Bond Proposal Election

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. When is the election?

Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Voters will also be able to vote by Absentee Ballot after March 20th and through Election Day.

2. What is on the May 4th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Waverly Community Schools, Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$125,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting additions to, remodeling, including security improvements to, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; and developing, equipping and improving playgrounds, play fields, athletic fields, parking areas and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2022 is 4.12 mills (\$4.12 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 5.79 mills (\$5.79 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$0. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

3. What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved borrowing process for a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal.

In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

4. How were the bond proposal projects developed?

Waverly Community Schools' strategic plan includes a process for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all school facilities. Continually evaluating and monitoring school facilities helps to protect the community's investment in its schools.

Working with construction, technology, and architectural specialists, the school district completed an in-depth facility study in the summer of 2019. The study identified all facility needs. After reviewing and prioritizing each proposed project, the final bond proposal projects list totaled \$125 million.

The students, staff, parents, and community members then reviewed the final list of facility projects to be completed through a series of presentations conducted during December 2020.

5. How would the bond proposal affect my taxes?

If approved, the \$125 million bond proposal would **not** increase the current debt millage tax rate as compared to the 2020 debt millage tax rate.

6. How can the bond proposal projects be completed without a tax rate increase?

The proposed bond would not increase the current tax rate over last year's tax rate because the proposed bond millage would replace the current bond debt millage that is expiring. The proposed bond would be sold in three series, further reducing interest costs and overall bond costs for repayment.

7. Would all the bonds be sold at one time?

No. To save interest costs, the bonds would be sold in three series (in 2022, 2024, and 2026).

8. What projects would be addressed with bond proposal revenue?

All bond proposal projects would address facility needs in three major areas:

- **Providing 21st Century Learning Spaces**
 - Fewer transitions = lower learning loss due to facility transition

- Dedicated space for specials = adequate environment for music, art, technology, PE without minimizing instructional offerings and losing instructional time to classroom transition
 - Larger classroom space to encourage greater use of push-in intervention services compared to pulling students away from their core instruction
 - Adequate space for Special Education programs and services
 - Technology infrastructure and equipment upgrades
 - Updated and flexible furnishings
 - Increase the natural light available in the buildings
- **Safety and security of all people who use our facilities**
 - ADA enhancements for 60 year old facilities
 - Secure entrances
 - Cameras/door lock systems
 - Improve athletic fields for student athlete safety
 - Improve healthy outcomes with replaced HVAC systems
 - Adequate parking and traffic flow patterns for student safety
- **Enhancing the opportunities for community involvement with the school District**
 - Renovation of community leased space
 - Opportunity to provide multi-generational space
 - Enhance auditorium space for the performing arts
 - Improve athletic complex and playgrounds

9. What projects would be completed at each facility if the bond proposal is approved by voters?

Elmwood & Winans Elementary Schools

- Building Addition including:
 - New Entry with Office + secure Vestibule
 - Gymnasium
 - Music Classroom
 - Support Classrooms
 - Kindergarten Classrooms
- New Parent Drives, Parking, + Playgrounds

East Intermediate School

- New Pavement Play Area
- New ADA Entry Ramp + Canopy
- Community Pool/Locker Room Renovation

Waverly Middle School

- Classroom Transformation including Windows + Clearstory Windows
- Renovated Cafeteria with Clerestory Windows
- Media Center with Exterior Windows
- Renovated 7th + 8th Grade Instructional Space
- Auditorium Upgrades

Waverly High School

- Office Transformation for Secure Entry
- Renovated Central Commons with Clerestory Windows
- Cafeteria Renovation + Outdoor Seating
- Media Center
- Auditorium Upgrades

Colt Early Childhood Education Center

- Classroom Updates
- Opportunity for Community Enrichment Center

District Wide

- Updates to Classrooms
- Mechanical Controls Upgrades
- Finish Upgrades
- New Furnishings
- Student Technology
- Bus Purchases
- LED Lighting
- Administration Building: Office Updates, New Entrance Vestibule
- District Services Building: Renovated Office and Professional Development Space
- Athletic Field Upgrades: New Press Boxes at Softball + Baseball Fields

10. Why did the School Board decide to add space at Elmwood and Winans Elementary Schools?

The school district plans to restructure Elmwood and Winans Elementary Schools to house kindergarten through fourth grade students. This change would reduce the number of transitions for our K-4 students. Current research indicates that reducing the number of school transitions students experience can lead to more positive academic gains. Colt Early Education Childhood Center will be updated to use for our pre-kindergarten programs, with additional possibility to also be utilized for multi-generational community programs.

11. Would taxpayers be still paying for computers when they are obsolete?

No. The Michigan Department of Treasury and federal tax regulations require that specific items in a bond proposal (such as computers) be paid for before they become obsolete. Computers must be paid off within five years of their purchase.

12. Would the School District purchase new buses?

Yes. The school district would purchase new buses consistent with the long-term replacement plan that calls for the replacement of two buses each year. This plan anticipates the average useful life of a school bus to be no greater than ten(10) years.

13. Is there an option to purchase alternative fuel buses?

Yes. There is an option to purchase alternative fuel buses during the period of the bond. The decision to make such purchases will depend on cost and environmental benefits.

14. If the bond is approved, what is the schedule for the completion of bond proposal projects?

Work on the bond proposal projects would begin immediately following approval of the bond. Major construction would begin at the High School and Middle School in the first series of the bonds and would conclude with the Elementary Buildings in the second series. The third and final series would primarily be used for a refresh of technology. It is estimated that all projects would be substantially completed by 2027.

15. Would all bond proposal revenue benefit the Waverly Community Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal would benefit Waverly Community Schools.

16. How can bond revenue be used?

Bonds can be used for:

- o Constructing new school buildings
- o Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- o Remodeling existing school buildings
- o Energy conservation improvements
- o Land purchases
- o Site development and improvements
- o Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- o Playground development and improvements
- o Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs
- o School bus purchases

- o Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
- o Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only.
- o The initial purchase of operating systems and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:

- o Employee salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- o Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- o Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- o Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- o Uniforms
- o Textbooks
- o Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- o Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

17. Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be independently audited.

18. Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Residents of the Waverly Community Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

19. Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website www.michigan.gov/vote or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

20. Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Clerk's Office where you reside.

21. Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. Since voter approval of Proposal 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from your Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on *Absentee Voting* in the left column.

You can also go to the school district's website at www.waverlycommunityschools.net click and click on *2021 Waverly Bond Information*. From there, you can click on the link to the State of Michigan website at www.michigan.gov/vote to obtain and complete the absentee ballot application and to obtain answers to any questions you may have about voting.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 20th and may be cast through Election Day.

To get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...

- Go to www.waverlycommunityschools.net click on *2021 Waverly Bond Information*
- Contact Superintendent of Schools Kelly Blake at kblake@waverlyk12.net or by phone at (517) 321-7265

This document was prepared to provide factual information about the Waverly Community Schools May 4, 2021 election and was paid for by Waverly Community Schools, 515 Snow Road, Lansing, MI 48917.